

NEWSRELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Feb. 3, 2012

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Corrections Department suspends request for proposal

The Montana Department of Corrections on Friday put on hold a request seeking proposals for a 120-bed medium-security correctional facility.

Director Mike Ferriter said the request will be suspended for 60-90 days while the department assesses population trends and the potential impacts of the agency's enhanced reentry initiative.

"We are taking some additional time to observe fluctuating population figures and determine what effect they have on our future incarceration needs" he said.

In addition, the department's increased emphasis on reentry strategies for inmates' transition to their communities is expected to reduce the rate at which inmates return to prison.

"We think it's prudent to focus additional attention on this issue," Ferriter said. "I don't believe we can be too careful in making decisions on how to spend taxpayers' money and in our approaches to safely return inmates to the communities of Montana."

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